

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 15618 091701Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 NSC-05 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5472

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SADAT, ANWAR)

SUBJ: PERSONAL MEMENTO OF AHMAD ARABI PASHA

REF: LONDON 15411

1. RANSLEY HAS BEEN DELAYED IN FRANCE AND CANCELLED HIS MEETING WITH US SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 9. HE IS EXPECTED BACK SOME TIME THIS COMING WEEKEND.

2. MEANWHILE, WE SUCCEEDED IN REACHING CROMBIE AT WADHAM COLLEGE IN OXFORD BY PHONE. CROMBIE STATED THAT HIS MOTHER ON THE BASIS OF HER FATHER'S STATEMENT DESCRIBED THE CHEST AS BEING ARABI PASHA'S, BUT THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REAL PROOF THAT IT WAS. CROMBIE STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHY HIS GRANDFATHER BELIEVED IT TO HAVE BEEN ARABI'S. HE DESCRIBED THE CHEST AS BEING MADE OF LEATHER, ITS DIMENSIONS BEING ABOUT 8 INCHES BY 5 INCHES BY 12 INCHES. WHEN HE INHERITED IT HE REGARDED IT AS SIMPLY A CURIO WHICH HE DID NOT WANT, AND DONATED IT TO OXFAM. SUBSEQUENTLY RANSLEY BOUGHT IT, AND A FEW MONTHS AGO WROTE CROMBIE ASKING HIM ABOUT IT. RANSLEY'S ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHEST IN HIS LETTER TO SECRETARY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON CROMBIE'S REPLY LETTER TO RANSLEY.

RICHARDSON

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